



Final Legislative Report 2006 Session

April 21, 2006

H0430 – Mental Health Records, Offenders – This bill allows the transfer between treating professionals of mental health records of incarcerated persons, persons under commitment, and those awaiting trial or sentencing. Except for substance abuse treatment files, no court order or authorization from the individual is required.

Status: Passed the House 61-6-3 on 2/22; passed the Senate 34-0-1 on 3/09; LAW

Council Position: Monitoring

H0496 – Appropriations, State Agencies – Amends Chapter 36, Title 67 of Idaho Code by adding a new section that requires legislative authorization by the germane committee before an agency may expend an appropriation.

Status: Sent to House State Affairs on 1/30

Council Position: Monitoring

H0547 – State Board of Education and IDVR, Rulemaking Authority – This gives rulemaking authority to the State Board of Education for the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for the purpose of promulgating rules to oversee sheltered workshops. With the transfer from Health and Welfare of the Extended Employment Program to IDVR, the existing rules terminated.

Status: Passed the House 67-0-3 on 2/21; passed the Senate 35-0-0 on 3/08; LAW

Council Position: Supports

H0552 – Building Safety – Allows the building code to be amended.

Status: Sent to Business on 2/07

Council Position: Monitoring

H0612 – Daycare Programs, Licensing Requirements for Providers – Amends daycare licensing law to extend to any provider who provide care for compensation to 2 or more children.

Status: In Health and Welfare Committee

Council Position: Monitoring

H0615 – Mental Health Parity in State Group Insurance - This bill creates a pilot program that provides mental health insurance coverage for specific serious mental illnesses on parity with other insurance medical coverage for state employees for a period of three years. This allows the state to establish the real costs and benefits of including mental health coverage in group health insurance coverage and report the data from this pilot back to the legislature.

Status: Passed the House 44-24-2 on 3/1; passed the Senate 26-9-0 on 3/10; LAW

Council Position: Support

H0618 – Health Care Facilities – This legislation requires health care facilities report certain infection rates to the Department of Health and Welfare on a quarterly basis and annually. These reports are to be made public but ensure patient privacy.

Status: In House Health and Welfare Committee

Council Position: Monitoring

H0623 – Kindergartens – Repeals the section of Idaho Code which states that school districts are not required to provide kindergarten and that eligible children are not required to attend. This has the effect of making kindergarten mandatory for both districts and children.

Status: Defeated in House Education Committee

Council Position: Monitoring

H0626 – School Districts, Immunity for Civil Action – This bill creates immunities from liability for any civil action for school districts, their contractors and employees, when parents have signed written waivers of liability giving permission for their children to participate in extracurricular activities while under school supervision.

Status: Sent to House Education on 2/10

Council Position: Monitoring

H0630a– Threats of Violence in School, Misdemeanor – This legislation says that persons, including pupils, that threaten to commit an act of violence on school grounds by use of a firearm or other deadly or dangerous weapon are guilty of a misdemeanor; the bill was sent to the amending order to add language that the threat must occur on school grounds.

Status: Passed the House 49-12-9 on 3/06 as amended; passed the Senate 31-4 on 3/28; signed into LAW on 3/31

Council Position: Monitoring; No position

H0644 – Cleft Lip or Palate Insurance Coverage – This legislation amends existing law to require insurance coverage for medically necessary care for children born with cleft lip or cleft palate. This care shall not be limited to oral and facial surgery, surgical management and follow-up care by plastic surgeons and oral surgeons, prosthetic treatment such as obturators, speech appliances and feeding appliances, habilitative speech therapy, otolaryngology treatment, and audiological assessments and treatment.

Status: Sent to House Business committee on 2/13; held – Committee Chair and Department of Insurance have agreed to develop rules to address this

Council Position: Monitoring

H0662 – Medicaid Simplification Act – This legislation is intended to improve health outcomes for Medicaid participants and slow the rate of growth of Medicaid costs. The bill establishes three new population groups (healthy low income children and families, persons with disabilities and special needs, and elders), based on participants' health needs. Benefits for each of the three groups are described in addition to a global benefit list for all Idaho Medicaid participants. The bill also authorizes the Director to develop a State Plan for Medical Assistance for each of these three groups.

Status: Heard in House Health and Welfare Committee on 2/28 and after a tie vote was held subject to the call of the chair; replaced by H0776.

Council Position: Support with assurances from the Office of the Governor

H0663a – Personal Health Accounts, Co-pays – Permits the Department of Health and Welfare to establish personal health accounts for Medicaid participants, which will require the department to establish enforceable cost sharing. Advocates are seeking assurances to exempt prescription drugs from co-pay requirements.

Status: Sent to general orders on 3/09 to amend to remove requirement for pharmacists to collect co-pays and that those co-pays will be in addition to – not included in – the dispensing fee; passed

House as amended on 3/16, 53-13-4; passed the Senate 35-0 on 3/28; signed into LAW on 3/31
Council Position: Monitoring

H0664 – Medicaid Buy-In – This bill would create a Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities, so that when an eligible person goes to work, they pay a premium, based on a sliding scale, which enables them to retain their Medicaid coverage. This would encourage independence and self-sufficiency. Currently, in order to pay for their support needs, people with disabilities lessen the hours they work so that they can keep their coverage. Implementation for this program is January 2007.

Status: Passed the House 65-0-5 on 3/06; passed Senate 35-0 on 3/14; signed into LAW by Governor on 3/23
Council Position: Support

H0667 – PKU Coverage – Amends existing law to requires certain group disability insurance contracts to provide coverage for special medical formulas for the treatment of PKU and related disorders.

Status: Defeated in Health and Welfare Committee on 3/2
Council Position: Monitoring

H0669 – Mental Illness, 24 Hour Hold – Authorizes hospital directors (or their delegees) to detain a gravely disabled person for 24 hours in order to conduct an exam, and if necessary, start appropriate court proceedings. The same limits and conditions would apply to hospitals that currently apply to law enforcement.

Status: Held in House Health and Welfare and replaced by H 734
Council Position: Monitoring

H0675 – Teen Early Intervention – This act creates a three year pilot project to create a model for providing Idaho school districts with 8 clinically trained substance abuse and mental health specialist counselors and social workers to address the mental health and substance abuse needs of teens. This would be done in cooperation with schools, courts, and the Department of Health and Welfare.

Status: Defeated in House Judiciary, Rules, and Administration Committee
Council Position: Support

H0698 – Scholarships for Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco free Students - This legislation provides eligibility for college scholarships for students who agree to be drug, alcohol and tobacco free. The schools are not required to conduct random testing but the student agrees to submit to that testing as a condition of eligibility.

Status: Passed the House 64-1-5 on 3/06; in Senate Education
Council Position: Monitoring

H0708 – Health Care Directive Registry – This bill creates an electronic registry within the Secretary of State's office that provides a means where people can register their living wills or durable power of attorney and then access them when needed. The registration is voluntary.

Status: Passed the House 66-0-4 on 2/27; passed the Senate 35-0-0 on 3/08; LAW
Council Position: Monitoring

H0734 – Detention for Treatment for Mental Illness – This bill replaces H 669 and would allow hospitals, at the determination of the attending physician, to detain persons voluntarily receiving mental health treatment for 24 hours if they believe the person to be gravely disabled, giving the Department of Health and Welfare time to conduct an exam and, if necessary, initiate court proceedings for commitment. The earlier legislation gave the detaining authority to the hospital administrator.

Status: Passed the House 61-0-9 on 3/10; passed the Senate 33-0-2 on 3/20; Governor signed into LAW on 3/24
Council Position: Monitoring

H0738a – Health Quality Planning Commission – This bill establishes a Health Quality Planning Commission within the Department of Health and Welfare. Members would be appointed by the Governor and would be comprised of representatives of the public and private sectors with expertise in health information technology, clinical quality and patient safety. The Commission would report to the Director and the Legislative Health Care Task its recommendation regarding a health information technology system for Idaho.

Status: Passed House as amended 57-8-5 on 3/13; passed House 34-0-1 on 3/21; signed into LAW on 3/30
Council Position: Monitoring

H0748 – Supplemental Appropriations – This bill provides an additional \$800,000 for Idaho's Infant Toddler Program for the current fiscal year. \$730,000 is federal funds with the remainder in agency receipts.

Status: Passed the House 68-0-2 on 3/3; passed the Senate 34-0-1 on 3/09; LAW

Council Position: Monitoring

H0776 – Medicaid Simplification Act – Amended version of House bill 662. This legislation is intended to improve health outcomes for Medicaid participants and slow the rate of growth of Medicaid costs. The bill establishes three new population groups (healthy low income children and families, persons with disabilities and special needs, and elders), based on participants' health needs. Benefits for each of the three groups are described in addition to a global benefit list for all Idaho Medicaid participants. The bill also authorizes the Director to develop a State Plan for Medical Assistance for each of these three groups.

Status: Passed the House 56-11-3 on 3/14; passed the Senate 33-0-2 on 3/23; signed into LAW by Governor on 3/31

Council Position: Support

H0829 – Appropriation for Independent Councils and Commissions – This bill authorizes our appropriation for FY 2007 (as well as for the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Domestic Violence Council). The ongoing salary increase is not in this bill but will be in a separate bill for all state employees.

Status: Passed the House 68-0-2 on 3/22; passed the Senate 34-0-1 on 3/28; signed into LAW 3/31

Council Position: Support

H0830 – Appropriation for Community Developmental Disabilities Services and Idaho State School and Hospital – This bill authorizes the appropriation for FY 2007 for both regional DD programs (including Infant Toddler) and the Idaho State School and Hospital. The bill provides for 171.44 staff in the community services and 375.53 staff at ISSH.

Status: Passed the House 56-14-0 on 3/22; passed the Senate 34-0-1 on 3/28; signed into LAW 3/31

Council Position: Monitoring

H0832 – Board of Health and Welfare – This bill expands the membership, authority and responsibilities of the Board of Health and

Welfare. This expansion was recommended in a report issued by the Office of Performance Evaluation. Additional board members are to include the Chairs of both Health and Welfare Committees in the legislature, the Director of the Department and a representative of the Governor's office. One of the new responsibilities of the board included evaluation of the performance of other advisory boards within the Department of Health and Welfare and then the issuance of reports related to that performance to the Governor and legislature. Legislative Services could not definitively say whether this evaluative oversight would include the DD Council and the other two independent councils. If it did, the bill would potentially conflict with our federal and state authorizing statutes which say that no entity in the state can interfere with Council operations.

Status: Amended in the House on 3/28 to eliminate the two sections that reference the advisory boards; passed the House as amended 59-5-6 on 3/30; passed Senate 32-0-3 on 4/3; signed into LAW 4/10

Council Position: Oppose in original form; if amended as intended, no position

H0849 – Medicaid Appropriation - Appropriates \$1,246,284,800 to the Department of Health and Welfare for Medical Assistance Services for fiscal year 2007. This bill also includes intent language to provide for a contract for a market analysis of certain service providers (related to HB 190 from last year) and also includes intent language directing the Department to work with the DD Council on a study regarding parent-directed care for children with developmental disabilities similar to what was done under self direction for adults with developmental disabilities

Status: Passed the House 49-19-2 on 3/29; passed Senate 34-0-1 on 4/3; signed into LAW on 4/7

Council Position: Monitoring/support

H0877 – Caregiver Support - This legislation creates a program to provide respite to unpaid caregivers of people who meet financial eligibility criteria for Medicaid and who are at risk of being placed in a nursing home. The bill was a replacement for SB 1390 but it caps the number of people who can be served at 500, requires budget neutrality, requires a report back to the legislature and sunsets the legislation in 3 years.

Status: Passed the House 60-6-4 on 4/6; passed the Senate 34-0-1 on 4/6; signed into LAW on 4/12

Council Position: Support

HCR048 – Medicaid services, Client Needs – This resolution requests the Legislature to encourage the Department of Health and Welfare to eliminate partial care and limit mental health benefits to low income children and adults who do not have serious emotional disturbance. This is part of the restructuring of Idaho's Medicaid program.

Status: Approved in House 57-5-8 on 3/15; adopted in the Senate on 3/24; to Secretary of State

Council Position: Monitoring

HCR049 – Financing Prescription Drugs, Medicare – Requests the Legislature to encourage the Department of Health and Welfare to establish programs that incorporate financing prescription drugs that are excluded from coverage under Medicare Part D. This would create a more coordinated delivery system for individuals dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. This is part of the restructuring of Idaho's Medicaid program.

Status: Approved in House 68-0-2 on 3/15; adopted in the Senate on 3/24; to Secretary of State

Council Position: Monitoring

HCR050aa – Premiums for Medicaid Participants – Requests the Legislature to encourage the Department of Health and Welfare to implement cost-sharing in the form of premiums for Low-Income Children and Working-Age Adult Medicaid participants who have family incomes above 133% of federal poverty. This is part of the restructuring of Idaho's Medicaid program. The results of this benefit change would be reported to the Legislature. The resolution was amended to encourage the Dept. of Health and Welfare to join a prescription drug purchasing pool, the savings from which would go into participants' personal health accounts to help them pay premiums.

Status: Approved in the House as amended on a voice vote on 3/22; approved by the Senate on 3/27; to Secretary of State

Council Position: Monitoring

HCR051 – Selective Contracting, Medicaid – Requests that the Legislature encourage the Department of Health and Welfare to pursue selective contracting for certain Medicaid supplies and services such as dental services, transportation brokerages, and durable medical equipment. This would increase the purchasing power of Medicaid funds and result in savings to the Medicaid program because of cost efficiencies. It would also

limit individual choice. This is part of the restructuring of Idaho's Medicaid program.

Status: Approved in the House 68-0-2 on 3/15; adopted in the Senate on 3/24; to Secretary of State

Council Position: Monitoring

HCR052 – Long-Term Care Options Counseling Program, Medicaid – Requests that the Legislature encourage the Department of Health and Welfare to develop a Long-Term Care Options Counseling Program as part of the Aging Resource Center initiative. This would promote alternatives to Medicaid-financed long-term care and eventually result in cost savings to the Medicaid program. The results of this program would be reported to the Legislature along with recommendations for further action. This is part of the restructuring of Idaho's Medicaid program.

Status: Approved in the House 59-0-11 on 3/15; adopted in the Senate on 3/24; to Secretary of State

Council Position: Monitoring

HCR053 – Requiring Medicare enrollment, Medicaid – Requests that the Legislature encourage the Department to require Medicare-eligible individuals to enroll in Medicare in order to be eligible for Medicaid. The results of the action would be reported to the Legislature. This is part of the restructuring of Idaho's Medicaid program.

Status: Approved in House 66-0-4 on 3/15; adopted in the Senate on 3/24; to Secretary of State

Council Position: Monitoring

HCR061 – High School Redesign Study/Rules – This resolution requests the State Board of Education to conduct further research and gather input from all Idaho school districts and present a report to the Legislature in 2007 regarding recommendations for rule changes regarding high school redesign.

Status: Adopted on a voice vote in the House on 3/13; died in Senate Education Committee

Council Position: Monitoring

HCR063 – Mental Health/Substance Abuse Study – Authorizes and interim committee to study the delivery of mental health and substance abuse service delivery in Idaho with the intent of moving these into a new agency separate from the Department of Health and Welfare.

Status: Adopted in House 62-8 on 3/23; adopted by Senate 28-0-7 on 4/10; to Secretary of State
Council Position: Monitoring

S1241 – Prekindergarten School Age – Provides a minimum age requirement of 4 years old to participate in prekindergarten programs in public schools. Districts are not required to have prekindergarten. Some schools are already doing this and paying for the programs with private funds.

Status: Currently on 14th Order in Senate
Council Position: Monitoring

S1252 – State Board of Correction, Language Revision – Extends the provisions of Idaho Code 20-227 to mental health courts. This provides that parole and probation officers have the authority to arrest person under drug court supervision without a warrant, or to authorize another officer to make such arrest, when in the judgement of the parole or probation officer the person has violated the conditions of drug court or of the parole or probation. This bill would follow up the 2005 amendment of the Idaho Drug Court Act to extend its provisions to mental health courts by extending the arrest powers of parole and probation officers to persons under the supervision of mental health courts.

Status: Senate passed 34-0-1 on 1/26; Passed the House 60-0-10 on 3/16; signed into LAW by Governor on 3/21
Council Position: Monitoring

S1253 – Kindergarten – Amends Section 33-208 of the Idaho code to provide that school districts shall establish and provide kindergarten programs; it does not require that children attend kindergarten. Although most districts currently provide kindergarten it is at the discretion of the district.

Status: In Senate Education Committee
Council Position: Monitoring; No position

S1258 – Fish and Game, Permits – Currently, each individual resident of State Hospitals North and South, the Idaho State School and Hospital and the State Veterans Home must obtain a permit in order to fish. This bill allows the Department of Fish and Game to issue a fishing permit to the facility for all residents. The bill also changes terminology from “inmate” to “resident” and from “institution” to “long-term care facility” (for the purposes

of this section only since long term care facility has a different definition in other sections of the code). Allowing these facilities to offer fishing permits to all residents without cost or effort favors these residents over non-institutionalized individuals who must apply and pay for these licenses, although at a reduced cost.

Status: Passed the Senate 34-0-1 on 2/10; passed House 62-0-8 on 3/13; signed into LAW by Governor on 3/22

Council Position: Monitoring

S1286 – Amends Public Records Act – This legislation raises the fine for public officials deliberately refusing requests for public records from a maximum of \$1,000 to a minimum of \$1,000.

Status: In Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee

Council Position: Monitoring

S1287 – Amending The Open Meeting Law – This legislation expands the definition of “governing body” for open meeting law purposes. The term “governing body” shall include any members of a public agency regardless of whether those members receive funding from the public agency as long as the members are acting on behalf of the public agency. This bill also increases the maximum fines to \$500 for the first violation and \$1,000 each for subsequent violations. This bill would apply to the Council.

Status: In Senate State Affairs Committee

Council Position: Monitoring

S1288 – Notice of State and Local Government Meetings – This legislation would require that all meeting notices for state and local government meetings which include time or place changes shall be posted on the outside of the original meeting place in a conspicuous place.

Status: In Senate State Affairs Committee

Council Position: Monitoring

S1289 – Minutes of Governmental Meetings - This bill would provide that recordings of meetings be required and retained for seven years and such recordings be deemed a public record. A full transcript of the meeting is not required, except as otherwise provided by law.

Status: In Senate State Affairs Committee

Council Position: Monitoring

S1308 – Postsecondary Education, Electronic Textbooks – To provide, upon request, electronic versions of instructional materials which have been adopted for instructional use by Idaho postsecondary educational institutions. This allows the educational institution to provide access in Braille, audio, or other electronic format for students who are blind, visually impaired, or have a diagnosed reading disability. Copyright protection for the publishers is also provided, and a publisher shall not charge a price that exceeds the price for the equivalent print version.

Status: Passed the Senate 35-0 on 2/2; sent to House Education Committee on 2/03

Council Position: Support

S1316 – Public Schools, Educational Interpreters – Creates minimum standards for K-12 educational interpreters serving deaf or hard-of hearing students. Currently there is no minimum standard and school administrators don't have a standard of measure to base hiring decisions. This legislation would set the minimum standard at a score of 3.5 on the educational interpreter performance assessment or an equal score on an equivalent test. This would allow many students in Idaho better access to classroom communication.

Status: Passed the Senate 35-0-0 on 2/21; passed House 56-4-10 on 3/15; signed into LAW by Governor on 3/23

Council Position: Support

S1318 – Medicaid Estate Recovery – This bill clarifies that the Medicaid Estate Recovery division of Health & Welfare can recover assets from the estate of a decedent when the surviving spouse is also deceased.

Status: Passed the Senate 35-0-0; passed the House 64-0-6 on 3/16; signed into LAW by Governor on 3/24

Council Position: Monitoring

S1327 – Criminal Background Check – This legislation requires individuals who provide care or services to vulnerable adults or children to have a criminal history and background check. The individual will be required to pay for this unless otherwise provided by department rules. This legislation could impact certain proposed provisions to the structure of the self directed option within the Home and Community Based Services waiver for people with developmental disabilities.

Status: Passed the Senate 23-12-0 on 2/14; passed the House 65-2-3 on 3/24; signed into LAW on 3/31

Council Position: Monitoring

S1331 – Parole, Examination, Mental Health Professionals – This amendment would allow mental health professionals to examine and evaluate whether a person should be released on parole, instead of the current requirement of one or more psychiatrists or psychologists. Currently, there is only one Psychologist for the Department of Correction and this person cannot conduct all reports required. Instead of hiring more, it would cost less money to allow mental health professionals to fill this role.

Status: Passed the Senate 34-0-1 on 2/14; passed the House 67-0-3 on 3/22; signed into LAW on 3/30

Council Position: Monitoring

S1333 – Incentive for More Math and Science Teachers – This bill would increase state funding for K-12 teachers who spend the majority of time in the math and science fields. Funding would only go to districts that adopt the same incentive locally.

Status: Failed the Senate 13-21-1 on 2/16

Council Position: Monitoring

S1338 – Certified Family Homes – Amends Idaho Code to include the protection of the anonymity, if requested, of a complainant who lodges a complaint against a Certified Family Home.

Status: Passed the Senate 34-1-0 on 2/14; passed the House 64-3-3 on 3/24; signed into LAW on 3/31

Council Position: Monitoring

S1339 – Personal Care Services – Amends Idaho Code that requires personal care services shall be ordered by a physician. The federal regulations no longer require this if at the State's option the service is otherwise authorized for the individual in accordance with a service plan approved by the State. Purpose is to remove an unnecessary step in the authorization process for personal care services.

Status: Passed the Senate 35-0-0 on 2/14; passed the House 67-0-3 on 3/24; signed into LAW on 3/31

Council Position: Monitoring

S1340a – Guardianship of Developmentally Disabled, Masters Level Health Professional – This legislation permits the Department of Health and Welfare to use "masters level health professionals" instead of Ph.D.

psychologists as one member of the 3-person committee that conducts evaluations for commitment and guardianship proceedings. This is due to the difficulty that the Dept. faces in finding clinical psychologists to serve in this role. NOTE: After consultation with the Council and Co-Ad, the Department recommended that this bill be amended to substitute "masters level psychologist" for "masters level health professional".

Status: Passed Senate 33-2-0 on 2/24; passed the House 64-0-6 on 3/27; signed into LAW on 3/31

Council Position: Previously opposed; support with amendment

S1341 – Early Childhood and Intervention Services – Amends Title 16, Chapter 1, the Early Intervention Services Act to modify the Interagency Coordinating Council's duties by expanding the scope of responsibility to incorporate the spectrum of early childhood matters (age birth to 8) and combines that Council with the Early Care and Learning Cross System Task Force to form the Early Childhood Coordinating Council within the office of the Governor. The regional programs that provide services for infants and toddlers with disabilities would remain within the Department of Health and Welfare.

Status: Passed the Senate 35-0-0 on 2/14; sent to House Health and Welfare on 2/15

Council Position: Monitoring; No position

S1344 – School Age – This would allow school districts to offer pre-school programs if they wish to do so, but no student is required to attend. Districts would also be allowed to set their own age requirements. This bill prohibits allocation of any state funds to districts for pre-school through the state foundation program. Attendance at a pre-school or pre-kindergarten program does not qualify a student to go to kindergarten unless the child has reached 5 years of age by September 1 of the kindergarten year.

Status: Sent to Education on 2/03

Council Position: Monitoring

S 1361 – Genetic Testing Privacy Act – This legislation is to protect the privacy of genetic testing results, particularly with regard to employers or insurers.

Status: In Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee; replaced by S 1423

Council Position: Monitoring

S1385 – Fishing/Hunting Licenses, Reduced Fees – This bill provides reduced fees for hunting and or fishing licenses for persons with disabilities. Because fishing and hunting opportunities may be accessible for person with disabilities this encourage participation, however it also creates a "special" category for these licenses that some may find objectionable.

Status: Passed Senate 34-0-1 on 2/27; passed the House 62-0-8 on 3/16; Governor signed into LAW on 3/22

Council Position: Monitoring

S1389a – Regional Mental Health Services – Codifies the State Mental Health Planning Council and adds transitional housing and intensive support and services for individuals with mental illness. The Sub-Committee on Mental Health is recommending and requesting an appropriation this year of \$4,000,000 to fund the regional grant program created by this legislation.

Status: Passed the Senate 34-0-1 on 2/23; passed House as amended 57-3-10 on 3/21; passed the Senate as amended 35-0 on 3/28; signed into LAW 3/31

Council Position: Monitoring

S1390a – Medicaid Benefits, Caregivers – This legislation establishes a Medicaid respite care benefit and a caregiver benefit scale for family caregivers of elders at risk of nursing home levels of care. This is part of the restructuring of Idaho's Medicaid program. At the urging of disability advocates, it was sent to the floor for amendment to add caregivers of people with disabilities in addition to those for elders.

Status: Passed the Senate 33-0-2 on 3/06 as amended; sent to floor of House with do-pass recommendation on 3/17 and then pulled back to the Committee for detail on fiscal impact; failed in the House on a tie 34-34 vote on 3/29; replaced by HB 877

Council Position: Support

S1414 – Mental Health Treatment Benefit for Victims of Crime - This legislation addresses the need for mental health treatment for victims of trauma arising out of covered criminal conduct. It amends the definition of "extenuating circumstances" under which the industrial commission may waive the current \$2,500 cap on mental health benefits, thereby allowing

mental health treatment to continue for as long as is needed subject to annual review.

Status: Passed the Senate 34-0-1 on 3/07; passed the House 58-4-8 on 3/24; signed into LAW on 3/31

Council Position: Monitoring

S1417 – Medical Assistance – Children – This bill amends the State Children's Access Card Program (SCHIP) to remove barriers and thus increase enrollment of eligible children.

Status: Passed the Senate 33-0-2 on 3/06; passed the House 46-21-3 on 3/21; signed into LAW on 3/30

Council Position: Monitoring

S1419 – Waiver of Sovereign Immunity – This bill would ensure that the state government is liable for discrimination against individuals with disabilities in the same way as any employer, any business or any level of government. If enacted, it will place the same duties of non-discrimination and reasonable accommodation on the state as every other governmental and private employer. It will provide people with disabilities the same legal protections and remedies in dealing with the state as exists with every other level of government or private business.

Status: Held in Senate State Affairs Committee

Council Position: Support

S1423a – Genetic Testing Privacy – This bill replaced SB 1361. This bill protects the privacy of people who have genetic testing done to determine their predisposition to a certain condition. The results of such tests may not be used to discriminate in employment or insurance coverage.

Status: Passed the Senate as amended 34-0-1 on 3/20; passed the House 65-0-5 on 3/27; signed into LAW on 3/31

Council position: Monitoring

S1427 – Special Education services to Students at the School for Deaf/Blind – This bill updates language in the law and allows for ISDB to provide services for children who are deaf and/or blind and who qualify for special education services both on their campus and in consultation statewide.

Status: Passed Senate 35-0 on 3/16; passed the House 65-0-05 on 3/30; signed into LAW on 4/7

Council Position: Monitoring

S1453 – Office for Children – This bill creates an Office for Families and Children within the Office of the Governor. This office will coordinate efforts related to children and families that are currently conducted through a variety of councils, boards and organizations.

Status: Passed the Senate 31-4-0 on 3/27; held in House State Affairs

Council Position: Monitoring

S1458 – Appropriations – This bill sets the appropriation for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, including \$70,300 for epilepsy services, an additional \$100,000 for the Assistive Technology Program, and an additional \$181,900 in state funds for community supported employment.

Status: Passed the Senate 35-0 on 3/24; passed the House 67-0-3 on 3/29; signed into LAW on 4/7

Council Position: Monitoring

SCR 124 – Dispute resolution – This resolution requests the Dept. of Health and Welfare to establish an informal dispute resolution process for ICFs/MR (similar to that for skilled nursing facilities) that is partially independent from the Department of Health and Welfare

Status: Approved by Senate on voice vote on 3/06; adopted by House 67-0-3 on 3/29; to Secretary of State on 4/3

Council Position: Monitoring